



CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO EDUCATION

1 IN EVERY 5 CHILDREN AND YOUTH WORLDWIDE IS OUT OF SCHOOL



Unity Foundation

ONG DEPUIS 1991

Created in 1991, **Unity Foundation** is a Luxembourgish NGO officially recognized by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

Unity Foundation collaborates with a network of **local partners** in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Our main objective is to provide financial resources to our partner organizations that carry out **educational projects** within the framework of three lines of action: Community Schools, the Preparation for Social Action (PSA) program and Training Centers.

All projects supported by Unity Foundation are **co-financed by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg**.

Celebrate Universal Children's Day with Unity Foundation

www.unityfoundation.lu



OUR VISION OF EDUCATION



WHAT IS UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY?

Dear readers,

This newsletter is special for Unity Foundation because November 20th is dedicated to Universal Children's Day. This marks the day on which the United Nations' General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, in 1959, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in 1989. This day, according to the U.N. **"offers each of us an inspirational entry-point to advocate, promote and celebrate children's rights, translating into dialogues and actions that will build a better world for Children."**

Investing in our children in every part of the world, means investing in our future. At Unity Foundation we fundamentally believe that the well-being of children and the development of communities can be achieved through education. Every child deserves the gift of education yet this fundamental right is deprived from nearly 263 million children and youth worldwide. We feel that each and every individual has an obligation to make the life of a child better and give them the opportunity to reach their potential and create a better future.

In this newsletter we will share with you our vision of education and a couple of stories from our partner organizations in the field. It is stories like these that give us the motivation to continue our endeavors in promoting our vision and doing what we can to make a difference. We hope that you can join us in making our vision a reality.

Fernand Schaber
President

At the heart of our approach to development is the conviction that **promoting education is an urgent and fundamental need** to increase the well-being and prosperity of communities around the world. **Children are the most precious treasure a community can possess**, for in them are the promise and guarantee of the future. They bear the seeds of the character of future society which is largely shaped by how the community treats them and the opportunities it offers them to flourish.

We are also convinced that every human being, and in particular every child in the world, has **immense potentialities** that can be revealed through adequate education. Such an education must take into account the **physical, intellectual and moral development of individuals** and make students active agents of their own learning. Its purpose is to empower each person not only to take charge of their personal growth but also to develop their capacity to **contribute to the progress of society**. Our seven partner organizations are committed to providing such education to an ever-increasing number of children and young people around the world; in 2018, **10,468 children** were educated in community schools and **1,603 youth and adults** participated in the Preparation for Social Action (P.S.A.) program.

Finally, we consider that the **education of girls and young women is crucial** for the sustainable progress of communities, because as the first educators of children, they play a key role in the advancement of future generations. We are pleased that girls and women make up more than half of the students in community schools and in the in the PSA program.



“I am grateful to have this program in my community.”
Odwori Juma

“Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit there from.”
Excerpt from the Bahá’í writings



A STUDENT’S PERSPECTIVE: ODWORI JUMA

Odwori Juma is a 14-year-old boy studying at Trinity College Buwagi in Uganda. He is a Senior 2 student and lives in Ivunamba village in Budondo sub-county. He joined the PSA program offered by our partner Kimanya-Ngeyo out of interest after seeing great improvement from his friends who had joined the program before: **“My friends spoke with confidence and their level of grammar had improved. I used to be shy and I would fear people, which is no longer the case. Because of the confidence I have now gained, I am currently in the debating club in school where I express myself fluently and the shyness is gone!”**

Furthermore, Odwori now conducts a children’s class in his community each week and strives to bring change while working with small children. The different texts studied in the program have enabled him to gain knowledge to make proper choices contributing to the promotion of good environmental practices in his community.

When Odwori grows up, he wants to become a doctor: **“I like seeing people in my community in good condition. There is need to put a dispensary in my micro region in order to reach out to the sick which I would one day like to do. I am grateful to have this program in my community.”**



“*"This school
is also mine."*

COMMITMENT OF PARENTS

The aim of our local partners and the teachers they engage is not to just establish a set number of schools and impose a specific working model. Instead teachers are very much involved in creating an awareness amongst the community that everyone is ultimately responsible for the development of their community. Here the community starts to take ownership of their school and thus their own educational and moral development.

Our partner YBTI in Indonesia has set a true example of how beneficial it is to involve the whole community when it comes to the education of the children. Meetings and seminars are commonly organized with the teachers and parents and the discussion centers

around what ways the community can help the school.

After one such meeting, one of the parents arrived to school unusually early to drop off her child. When the teacher arrived at school, she saw this woman sweeping the school yard. The teacher, surprised, because she was supposed to be in charge of cleaning the school that day, asked the mother why she arrived earlier than usual and why was she sweeping the school yard. The mother replied, **"from the meeting yesterday, I got a new understanding, that this school is also mine. Since I am used to doing this at home, I also have to treat this school like my home. After all this is the place where my child studies and receives an education."**



“*"CORDE's educational
program has changed me."*

Ponlok Sida

STORY OF PONLOK SIDA

When she was a young child, her mother died and therefore she was left with no choice but to drop out of school and work to help support her family. Or so she thought... As chance would have it, she was offered to work as a cleaner at CORDE (our local partner in Cambodia). Seeing her desire to continue her education, the advisor at CORDE offered her the chance to continue her studies at the same time

working to help her siblings. This offer gave her hope for her future and she gained confidence to pursue her dream of serving her community by sharing the knowledge she gained with the children in her village. Now she is the assistant to CORDE Executive Director, a position she never thought would be possible if it was not for the opportunity given to her to gain access to education.



THE JOY OF GIVING

As Unity Foundation is an NGO accredited by the MFEA, **all donations made in our favour are tax deductible.**

Each contribution, no matter how small or large, helps us to support our partners in carrying out their education projects.

OUR BANK ACCOUNT

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